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Art

John Duncan

The subjects of the accompanying cuts, which are made from drawings done by students of the Pedagogic School, have been chosen to illustrate the most primitive form of hunter life. (See outline by Miss Rice, page 612.) The drawings have been edited, to some extent, and simplified to meet the exigencies of printing.

Figures 1 and 2 indicate the arboreal habits of our far-back ancestors, with whom arms and legs shared the offices of prehension and locomotion. Some attempt has been made to render the aspect of these people—the long, strong arms, the short legs and in-turned prehensile feet, the flat nose, the powerful jaws. The outcome is not pleasing, but it brings out by a process of inversion the comparative beauty of the modern face, and makes for the development of the love of beauty. Beauty of face and of person is seen to be the result of the intellectual progress, the improvement of the arts, and the moral uplifting of civilization, and not, as is so often believed, a mere happening without reason or relation.

Figures 3, 4, and 5 show man aggressive, in pursuit of food, and using the rudest weapons; Figure 3, casting stones from an overhanging bank upon the beast beneath; Figure 4, wielding a rude stone hammer; and Figure 5, using the bow and arrow.

Figures 6, 7, and 8 illustrate the occupations in the home; Figure 6, the making of fire with the fire-drill; Figure 7, cooking with the spit; and Figure 8, the chipping of flint implements.

Of course the drawings printed do not represent a tithe of those actually produced. The students worked individually,

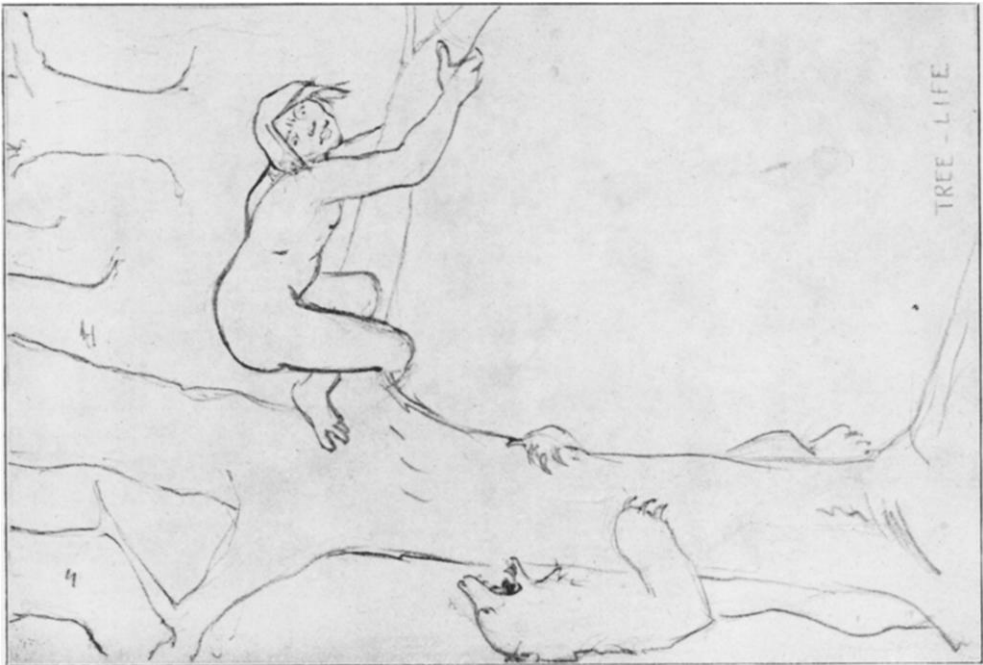
and each expressed her own conception of the arts and conditions of that life, incorporating in the drawings the results of her own study and observation in the library and museum.

We would have the students take up this matter of illustration seriously. The collation of drawings would issue in picture-books, presenting history in the most vivid way, appealing directly to the eye. All might work together in the prehension and digestion of material, the more skillful leading the way, the drawings being passed through a process of successive editing.

During this month we shall go on to epitomize the life of the early shepherd in the same summary manner, using clay instead of chalk and pencil, modeling statuettes and low reliefs, enhanced and reinforced in some cases with color.

Pottery: The students of the first-year training class are at work upon their pottery, and the painting and glazing of their ware will occupy part of the month.

Painting from Nature (correlated with nature study) will alternate with the modeling. The students will try to express in this work the appearance of the day. Walking in the park, we will study the details of the scene, noting the characters of the trees as we go along, the appearance of the sky, the moisture or frost, and then retiring to the Academy of Science, from the windows of which we command an extensive view of the park, we shall proceed to make our pictures. These may be copied from the scene immediately before us, or built up imaginatively from the observations we have made in our peregrinations on the way thither.





STONE HAMMER



STONE THROWING



